

Application No. 10/719,394

**Remarks**

The Office Action of July 22, 2005, has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 8-13, and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Titterington et al. (5,372,852) in view of Kessler (4,458,399).

Claims 4-7 and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Titterington et al. in view of Kessler as applied to claim 1.

Initially, the Applicants must point out that none of the applied prior art addresses the problems or its solution in which the present invention is directed to. The present invention is directed to the problem of supplying release liquid in ink jet printing systems that utilize intermediate transfer ink jet recording methods; in particular to an applicator assembly that has improved distributing properties and longer life. As recited in amended claim 1, there is provided an applicator assembly for distributing a layer of release liquid onto the imaging transfer surface to produce an intermediate transfer surface; said applicator assembly including a porous member having a core, said core having openings defined therein, a liquid supply system connected to said core for supplying release liquid to saturate said porous member. The prior art applied does not address this problem nor its solution.

The disclosures of the cited art and the distinctions between claims may be briefly summarized as follows:

Titterington et al. teaches a phase change ink composition is indirectly applied to a substrate by raising the temperature of the phase change ink composition to form a liquid phase change ink composition, applying droplets of the phase change ink composition in a liquid phase to a liquid intermediate transfer surface on a solid support in a pattern using a

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device such as an ink jet printhead, solidifying the phase change ink composition on the liquid intermediate transfer surface, transferring the phase change ink composition from the liquid intermediate transfer surface to the substrate, and fixing the phase change ink composition to the substrate. The phase change ink composition is malleable when the ink is transferred from the intermediate transfer surface to the substrate and is ductile after the ink has been transferred to the substrate and cooled to ambient temperature to preclude the ink from crumbling and cracking. Titterington et al. fails to teach that said applicator assembly including a porous member having a core, said core having openings defined therein, a liquid supply system connected to said core for supplying release liquid to saturate said porous member.

Kessler teaches a rigid plastic tube supports an ink applying sleeve of resilient micro-porous ink retaining material, and a pair of end journal and closure members are pressed into opposite ends of the tube. An ink retaining unit confined within the support tube between the end closure members and includes axially spaced thin plastic discs which define therebetween ink retaining capillary chambers for receiving a supply of ink. A series of axially spaced holes are formed in the support tube and control the outward radial flow of ink from the capillary chambers into the micro-porous sleeve. In one form, the thin plastic discs are separately formed of molded and include axially projecting hub portions which interfit and provide for pressing a stack of the discs together to form the ink retaining unit. Kessler fails to teach an Ink jet printing systems that utilize intermediate transfer ink jet recording methods and further applicator assembly including a porous member having a core, said core having openings defined therein, a liquid supply system connected to said core for supplying release liquid to saturate said porous member.

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Takahashi et al. teaches a printing machine such as a stencil duplicator having an ink supply roller and a squeezer and adapted to hold a columnar ink deposit placed on the outer peripheral surface of the roller and substantially prevented by the squeezer from moving as a whole together with the outer peripheral surface of the roller, including a device for detecting the amount of ink in the ink deposit, having a pivotable lever whose one end contacts the ink deposit and which changes its pivotal position in accordance with the size of the ink deposit, and a means for detecting the pivotal position of the lever. Takahashi et al. fails to teach an ink jet printing systems that utilize intermediate transfer ink jet recording methods and further applicator assembly including a porous member having a core, said core having openings defined therein, a liquid supply system connected to said core for supplying release liquid to saturate said porous member.

Further, the Examiner has failed to establish a motivation to combine the teachings of Titterington et al. with the isolated teachings of Kessler and Takahashi et al. To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the Examiner cannot merely combine references, but also must demonstrate a motivation that would teach an ordinary skilled artisan to combine the teachings. Thus, since the Examiner has failed to establish a motivation to combine the teachings of Titterington et al. with the isolated teachings of Kessler. The Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness.

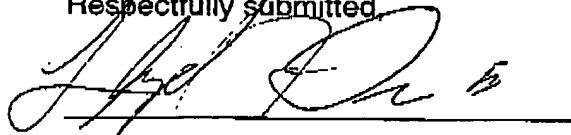
No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment. However, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney (or agent) hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025. This also constitutes a

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request for any needed extension of time and authorization to charge all fees therefor to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is hereby directed to call Lloyd F. Bean, II, at Telephone Number 585-423-4520, Rochester, New York.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Lloyd F. Bean, II', written over a horizontal line.

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LFB/cw

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